Application number: 09/534233
Applicant: Khai Hee Kwan
Title: System and method for conducting an electronic financial asset deposit auction over computer network

Art Unit: 3628
Examiner: Clement, B Graham.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TO: Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to Second Office Action mailed on Feb 19,2003, we respectfully ask the examiner to enter the following amendments as below. Changes made by these amendments are shown as below in Appendix A.

IN THE CLAIMS

Clean Version.

1-14 (PREVIOUSLY DELETED)

15. (Amended) A method for soliciting competitive terms of deposit operating on a deposit auction system, said system including a programmed computer connected to a network accessible by a plurality of users within a first selected period of time and anonymity means for concealing the identities of deposit applicants, the method executable at said computer comprising:

a) receiving deposit application from a prospective depositor who is a respective one of the users, wherein said application comprising permissible personal information and money, securities or financial equivalent deposit offer terms as subscribed by the prospective depositor ;

b) assigning a handle to conceal a real identity of the said prospective depositor and displaying said depositor's application anonymously;

c) receiving from at least one deposit-taking institution, who is a respective one of the users communicating over the network, at least a respective one of the responsive bids for said deposit application wherein said bid comprises responsive deposit terms, type of guarantees, payment schedule, deposit rate, securities in exchange and terms of exchange; and

d) receiving an electronic instruction from the deposit applicant, notifying and authorizing at least one selected deposit-taking institution to access a real identity and personal information of said applicant for a second selected period of time.

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16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of receiving from
deposit applicant communicating over the network, an electronic instruction selecting at least one
of responsive deposit-taking institutions bided for said depositor's application.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, includes a step of verifying the ownership of
said money, securities or financial equivalent as subscribed by deposit applicant.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of maintaining data
representative of bids for the depositor's application in a database accessible to users over a
network, said data comprising depositing terms, type of guarantees, payment schedule, deposit
rate, securities in exchange and terms of exchange information on each of a plurality of submitted
responsive bids.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, adapted to further promote a completely
anonymous deposit auction, comprising :

assigning a handle to conceal a real identity of the deposit taking institution.

20. (DELETED)
21. (DELETED)
22. (DELETED)
23. (DELETED)

24. (Amended) A deposit auction system including a computer connected to a network
programmed to perform the method of Claim 15.

25. (Amended) A deposit auction system including a computer connected to a network
programmed to perform the method of Claim 16.

26. (Amended) A deposit auction system including a computer connected to a network
programmed to perform the method of Claim 17

27. (Amended) A deposit auction system including a computer connected to a network
programmed to perform the method of Claim 18.

28. (Amended) A deposit auction system including a computer connected to a network
programmed to perform the method of Claim 19.

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29. (Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of claim 15.

30. (Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of claim 16

31. (Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of claim 17

32.(Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of claim 18

33. (Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of claim 19

PLEASE ADD CLAIMS 34-38

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34. (NEW) A deposit auction system for soliciting competitive terms of deposit connected to a network, said network comprising at least one client computer and a programmed computer further comprising a database of deposit applications, said network accessible by a plurality of users within a first selected period of time, comprising:

a)   means for receiving a deposit application from a prospective depositor who is a respective one of the users, wherein said application comprising permissible personal information and money, securities or financial equivalent deposit offer terms as subscribed by the prospective depositor;

b)   anonymity means for assigning a handle to conceal a real identity of the said prospective depositor for displaying said depositor's application anonymously;

c)   means for receiving from at least one deposit-taking institution, who is a respective one of the users communicating over the network, at least a respective one of the responsive bids for said deposit application offer wherein said bid comprises responsive depositing terms, type of guarantees, payment schedule, deposit rate, securities in exchange and terms of exchange; and

d)   means for receiving an electronic instruction from the deposit applicant, notifying and authorizing at least one selected deposit-taking institution to access a real identity and personal information of said applicant for a second selected period of time.

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35. (NEW) The system according to claim 34, further comprising means for receiving from deposit applicant communicating over the network, an electronic instruction selecting at least one of responsive deposit-taking institutions bided for said depositor's application.

36. (NEW) The system according to claim 34, further comprising means for verifying the ownership of said money, securities or financial equivalent as subscribed by deposit applicant.

37. (NEW) The system according to claim 34, further comprising means for maintaining data representative of bids for the depositor's application in a database accessible to users over a network, said data comprising depositing terms, type of guarantees, payment schedule, deposit rate, securities in exchange and terms of exchange information on each of a plurality of submitted responsive bids.

38. (NEW) The system according to claim 34, adapted to further promote a completely anonymous deposit auction, by including means for assigning a handle to conceal a real identity of the deposit taking institution.

REMARKS

Administrative Issues.

a) Our original response was faxed on the 15 Oct 2002 but as noted in this action letter dated 19 Feb 2003, said is now recorded as 24 Nov 2002 which we believed to be either inaccurate or pertaining to our second re-faxed copy of the first faxed dated 15 Oct 2002 as requested by your goodself. We respectfully ask for clarification here.

b) In this response, we have amended our independents claims pertaining to article of manufacturer (Claim 29) and system (Claim 25) to be dependent of the method claim in Claim 15 but this does not alter the substances of our claims, merely the form. This way of claiming software-based inventions is believed to simplify the examination of the application, because it concentrates on the new method that is the heart of the invention while providing coverage for the invention not only as a method but also as an apparatus that runs the method and articles of manufacture used to distribute programs. We believe this to be permissible as stated in §608.01(n), Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, United States Patent and Trademark Office, page 600-77 (8th Ed., August 2001), distinctly pointing out "The fact that the independent and dependent claims are in different statutory classes does not, in itself, render the latter improper."